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Soviet Gains Seen in Tests Underground

Washington, Oct. 18 (NEWS Bureau) — Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) said today that Russia has developed new types of Atomic warheads through underground experiments. He warned that "any proposals for total test ban treaties" should be searchingly examined.



Sen.
Jackson

Jackson, chairman of the military applications subcommittee of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, made his annual report on the limited test ban safeguards and found the U.S. making excellent progress.

But he told the Senate that new techniques in underground testing have afforded progress far beyond expectations.

"We can no longer be assured that we own a commanding lead in the field of nuclear weapons systems and must assume that the Soviets will narrow the gap materially if we do not do everything the safeguards permit in support of our own nuclear weapons capability," Jackson said.

Surprising Results

The Senator said weapons "sophistication" displayed by the Chinese Communists in their early tests "is both surprising and puzzling to our nuclear scientists."

"Underground tests are now yielding valuable diagnostic data not envisioned or thought possible at the time of the signing of the test ban treaty," Jackson said.

"In the light of continued underground testing by the Soviet Union and atmospheric testing by France and Communist China," Jackson said, "a warning is necessary: The Senate must take a long, hard look at any proposals for total test ban treaties, to be fully informed at any early stage of all the ramifications of particular proposals, and see to it that we do not consent to any arrangements or provisions which operate against our vital national security interests."

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